

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising at a mobile station:
determining a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel based on link quality related measurements on said point-to-multipoint channel, while multicasting data on a point-to-multipoint channel; and
sending a request to a mobile communication network to switch and thereafter ~~transmit~~continue transmitting multicast data via a point-to-point channel, in case said determined link quality lies below a given link quality.
2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising said network establishing a point-to-point channel to said mobile station upon receiving such a request to ~~transmit~~continue transmitting said multicast data via a point-to-point channel and transmitting said multicast data via said established point-to-point channel.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said determined link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel is represented at least by a determined mean bit error probability, wherein said given link quality is represented at least by a given maximum bit error probability, and wherein said determined link quality is assumed to lie below said given link quality in case said determined mean bit error probability lies above said given maximum bit error probability.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said determined link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel is represented at least by a determined coefficient of variation of a bit error probability, wherein said given link quality is represented at least by a given minimum coefficient of variation of a bit error probability, and wherein said link quality is assumed to lie below said given link quality in case said determined coefficient of variation of a bit error probability lies below said given minimum coefficient of variation of a bit error probability.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising said network providing an indication of said given link quality to said mobile station.
6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein said network provides an indication of said given link quality to said mobile station for each multicast service for which multicast data is to be transmitted to said mobile station.
7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein in case said mobile station receives multicast data for at least two multicast services via said point-to-multipoint channel, a given link quality is available for each of said multicast services at said mobile station, and said mobile station requests from said mobile communication network the transmission of said multicast data via a point-to-point channel in case said determined link quality lies below the highest of said given link qualities.
8. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising for supporting a switch from a point-to-point channel to a point-to-multipoint channel for transmitting multicast data from a mobile communication network to a mobile station:
 - said mobile communication network estimating a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while transmitting multicast data on a point-to-point channel to said mobile station; and
 - in case said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality, said mobile communication network ordering said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data.
9. (original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising preventing a repeated switching between a point-to-point channel and a point-to-multipoint channel for a transmission of multicast data belonging a single session of a multicast service, as long as said mobile station remains within one cell served by said mobile communication network.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a measuring portion configured for performing link quality related measurements on a point-to-multipoint channel via which said apparatus receives multicast data from a mobile communication network;
 - a processing portion configured for determining a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel based on measurement results provided by said measuring portion and for comparing a determined link quality with a given link quality; and
 - a transmitting portion configured for transmitting a request to a mobile communication network to switch and thereafter continue transmitting ~~transmit~~ multicast data via a point-to-point channel, in case said processing portion detects that a determined link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel employed for transmitting multicast data lies below a given link quality.
11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) A mobile communication system comprising an apparatus according to claim 10 and a sub-network of a mobile communication network.
13. (previously presented) A processor readable medium in which a software code is stored, said software code realizing the method of claim 1 when running in a processing component of a mobile station.
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (previously presented) A method comprising at a mobile communication network:
 - requesting and receiving from a mobile station measurement results for link quality related measurements on a point-to-point channel, which point-to-point channel is currently used by said network for transmitting multicast data to said mobile station,
 - estimating a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while transmitting multicast data on said point-to-point channel to said mobile station, wherein said

mobile communication network estimates said link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel based on said measurement results for said point-to-point channel,

in case said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality, ordering said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data.

17. (previously presented) A method comprising at a mobile communication network:

estimating a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while transmitting multicast data on a point-to-point channel to a mobile station; and

in case said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality, ordering said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data,

wherein said mobile communication network orders said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data by means of a switch order, which switch order releases said point-to-point connection and provides parameters for said point-to-multipoint channel to said mobile station.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein in case said mobile station receives from said mobile communication network multicast data of at least two multicast services via at least two point-to-point channels, each multicast service requiring a dedicated link quality, said mobile communication network switches from said point-to-point channels to a point-to-multipoint channel for transmitting said multicast data only, in case the highest required link quality of all multicast services is reached.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for a mobile communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a transmitting portion configured for transmitting multicast data using at least one of a point-to-point channel and a point-to-multipoint channel; and

a processing portion configured for estimating a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while said transmitting portion transmits multicast data to a mobile station ~~uses on~~ a point-to-point channel ~~for transmitting multicast data to a mobile station~~, and for ordering said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data by means of a switch order, in case said estimated link quality lies above a required link quality;

~~wherein said ordering by said processing component is via a switch order, which switch order releases said point-to-point connection and provides parameters for said point-to-multipoint channel to said mobile station.~~

20. (previously presented) A mobile communication system comprising a mobile station and an apparatus according to claim 19, said mobile station including a receiving portion for receiving multicast data from said mobile communication network.

21. (previously presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 20, wherein said mobile station further includes:

a measuring portion configured for performing link quality related measurements on a point-to-point channel via which said mobile station receives multicast data from said sub-network; and

a transmitting portion configured for transmitting measurement results of said measuring portion to said sub-network, and

wherein said sub-network further includes:

a receiving portion configured for receiving from said mobile station measurement results on the link quality of a point-to-point channel employed by said sub-network for transmitting multicast data to said mobile station, said processing portion configured for estimating said link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel from measurement results received by said receiving portion from a mobile station.

22. (previously presented) A processor readable medium in which a software code is stored, said software code realizing the method of claim 17 when running in a processing component of a mobile communication network.
23. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus is a mobile station or a part of a mobile station.
24. (canceled)
25. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said apparatus is a sub-network of a mobile communication network or a part of a sub-network of a mobile communication network.
26. (canceled)
27. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - means for performing link quality related measurements on a point-to-multipoint channel via which said apparatus receives multicast data from a mobile communication network;
 - means for determining a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel based on measurement results provided by said measuring portion and for comparing a determined link quality with a given link quality; and
 - means for transmitting a request to a mobile communication network to switch and thereafter ~~transmit~~continue transmitting multicast data via a point-to-point channel, in case said processing portion detects that a determined link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel employed for transmitting multicast data lies below a given link quality.
28. (canceled)
29. (currently amended) An apparatus for a mobile communication network, said apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting multicast data using at least one of a point-to-point channel and a point-to-multipoint channel; and

means for estimating a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while said means for transmitting transmits multicast data to a mobile station on said transmitting portion ~~uses a point-to-point channel for transmitting multicast data to a mobile station, and for ordering said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for thereafter receiving multicast data~~ by means of a switch order, in case said estimated link quality lies above a required link quality;

wherein said ~~ordering is via a switch order, which~~ switch order releases said point-to-point connection and provides parameters for said point-to-multipoint channel to said mobile station.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said determined link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel is represented at least by a determined mean bit error probability, wherein said given link quality is represented at least by a given maximum bit error probability, and wherein said processing portion is configured to assume a link quality to lie below said given link quality in case said determined mean bit error probability lies above said given maximum bit error probability.
31. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said determined link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel is represented at least by a determined coefficient of variation of a bit error probability, wherein said given link quality is represented at least by a given minimum coefficient of variation of a bit error probability, and wherein said processing portion is configured to assume a link quality to lie below said given link quality in case said determined coefficient of variation of a bit error probability lies below said given minimum coefficient of variation of a bit error probability.
32. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein in case said apparatus receives multicast data for at least two multicast services via said point-to-multipoint channel, a given link quality is available for each of said multicast

services, and wherein said transmitting portion is configured to transmit a request to said mobile communication network to transmit said multicast data via a point-to-point channel in case said determined link quality lies below the highest of said given link qualities.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein for the case that said mobile station receives from said mobile communication network multicast data of at least two multicast services via at least two point-to-point channels, each multicast service requiring a dedicated link quality, said processing portion is configured to cause said transmitting portion to switch from said point-to-point channels to a point-to-multipoint channel for transmitting said multicast data only, in case the highest required link quality of all multicast services is reached.

34. (previously presented) A method comprising at a mobile station:

performing link quality related measurements on a point-to-point channel, which point-to-point channel is currently used by a mobile communication network for transmitting multicast data to said mobile station, and transmitting measurement results to said mobile communication network upon request by said mobile communication network, wherein said measurement results are suited to enable said mobile communication network to estimate a link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel while transmitting multicast data on said point-to-point channel to said mobile station;

receiving an order from said mobile communication network to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data, in case said mobile communication network determined that said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality, and

switching from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data upon receipt of said order.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus for a mobile communication network comprising:

a communication component configured to request and receive from a mobile station measurement results for link quality related measurements on a point-to-point channel; while said point-to-point channel is used by said network for transmitting multicast data to said mobile station ~~while multicasting on a point-to-point channel to said mobile station,~~

a processing component configured to estimate a link quality of a point-to-multipoint channel while said network is transmitting multicast data on said point-to-point channel to said mobile station, wherein said processing component is configured to estimate said link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel based on said measurement results for said point-to-point channel, and

a processing component configured to order said mobile station to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data in case said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality.

36. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a measurement component configured to perform link quality related measurements on a point-to-point channel, which point-to-point channel is currently used by a mobile communication network for transmitting multicast data to said apparatus, and transmitting measurement results to said mobile communication network upon request by said mobile communication network, wherein said measurement results are suited to enable said mobile communication network to estimate a link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel while transmitting multicast data on said point-to-point channel to said mobile station; and

a switching component configured to receive an order from said mobile communication network to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data, in case said mobile communication network determined that said estimated link quality of said point-to-multipoint channel reaches a required link quality, and to switch from said point-to-point channel to said point-to-multipoint channel for receiving said multicast data upon receipt of said order.